What is claimed is:

1. A method for the prevention of gastric ulcers in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of a proton pump inhibitor to the mammal.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the gastric ulcers comprise gastrointestinal ulcers.

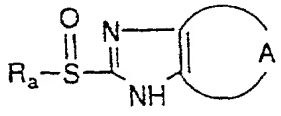
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is a horse, dog or human.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the mammal is a horse.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the mammal is a dog.

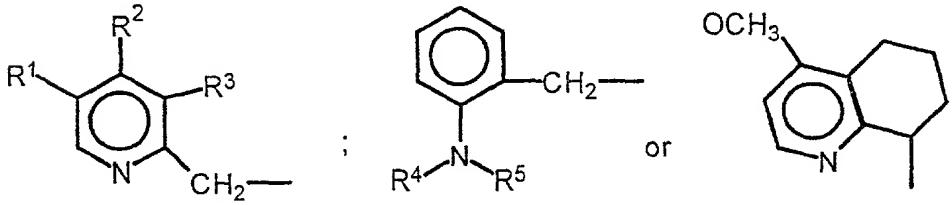
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the mammal is a human.

7 The method of claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is a compound of the general formula :



I

wherein $R_a$ is

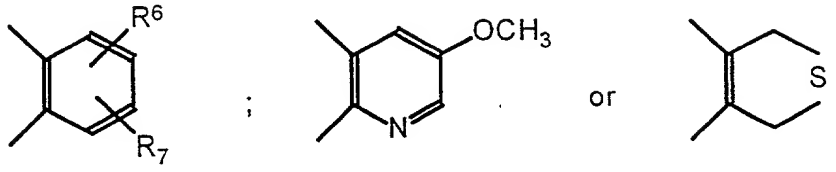


; or

Where $R^1$ and $R^3$ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and halogen, $R^2$ is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy-lower alkoxy, lower fluoralkoxy and

$R^4$ and $R^5$ are independently selected from lower alkyl,

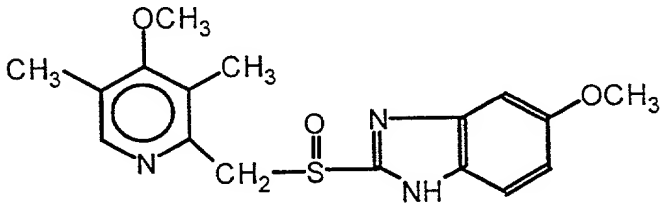
A is



$R^6$ and $R^7$ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower fluoroalkoxy, lower fluoroalkyl, halogen,

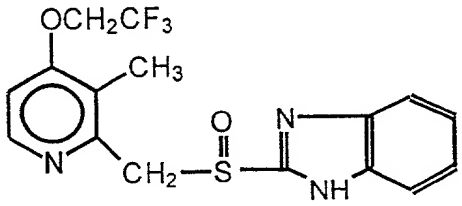
wherein $R^8$ is lower alkyl or lower alkoxy.

8 The method of claim 7 wherein the proton pump inhibitor is

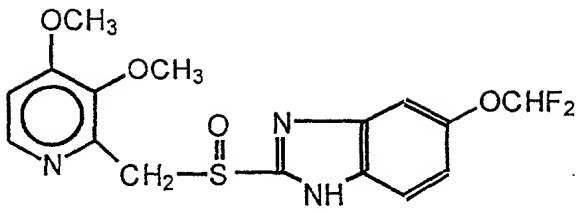


Omeprazole

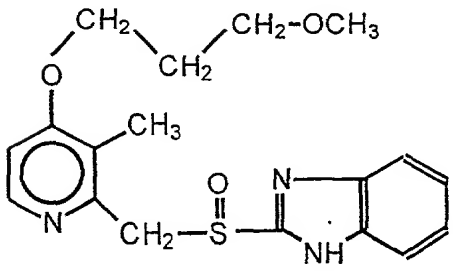
9. The method of claim 7 wherein the proton inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of:



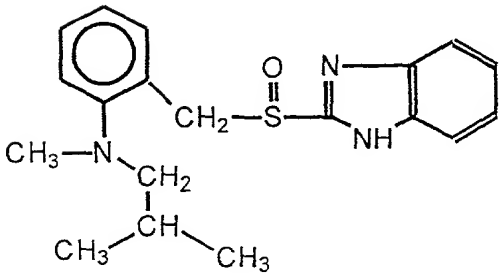
Lansoprazole,



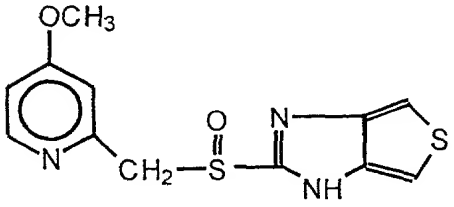
Pantoprazole,



E—3810,



Leminoprazole,



S—4216,

esomeprazole, rabeprazole and IY-81149.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the administering is periodic.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the administering is daily.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the administering is at least during an entire period when the mammal is or is suspected to be under conditions which may be stressful or which may increase the risk of formation of ulcers.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of proton pump inhibitor of 0.1 to 8 mg per kilogram body weight.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount is a dose equal to or less than the usual doses for the treatment of ulcers in the mammal.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the effective dose is about 50% of the usual dose for the treatment of ulcers in the mammal.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor in the form of a formulation for controlled release and long lasting delivery.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is in a formulation for oral delivery.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said formulation is selected from the group consisting of oral solutions, oral suspensions, feed premix, pastes, gels, powder, granules, tablets, capsules or boli.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the mammal is a horse and the formulation is a pharmaceutical composition for oral administration comprising a proton pump inhibitor, a thickening agent , a basifying agent, and a hydrophobic, oily liquid vehicle.

20. A method for improving physiological responses in a mammal, said physiological responds including oxygen consumption and/or time to fatigue, and said method comprising administering to the mammal an amount of a proton pump inhibitor which is effective to prevent gastric ulcers.